

ADDENDUM  
TO THE  
STANDING ORDERS  
OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
RELATING TO PUBLIC BUSINESS

23 June 2010

Amendments to Standing Order No. 10 (Westminster Hall),  
Standing Order No. 14 (Arrangement of public business),  
Standing Order No. 24A (Topical debates), Standing Order  
No. 41A (Deferred divisions), Standing Order No. 47 (Time  
limits on speeches), Standing Order No. 122B (Election of  
select committee chairs), Standing Order No. 152 (Select  
committees related to government departments)

New Standing Orders No. 122D (Election of Backbench  
Business Committee), No. 152J (Backbench Business  
Committee)

New Temporary Standing Order (Political and Constitutional  
Reform Committee)

*Reprinted from the  
Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons  
of 7 June 2010 and 15 June 2010.*



*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 10  
(Westminster Hall) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

*Westminster Hall*

**10.**—(1) On days on which the House shall sit after an address has been agreed to in answer to Her Majesty's Speech there shall be a sitting in Westminster Hall—

Sittings in  
Westminster  
Hall.

5           (a) on Tuesdays between half-past nine o'clock and two o'clock;

10           (b) on Wednesdays beginning at half-past nine o'clock, which shall be suspended from half-past eleven o'clock until half-past two o'clock and may then continue for up to a further two and a half hours; except that if the Wednesday immediately follows a periodic adjournment of the House of more than two days, the sitting shall be between half-past nine o'clock and two o'clock; and

15           (c) on Thursdays beginning at half-past two o'clock and continuing for up to three hours,

and in calculating the periods of two and a half or three hours no account shall be taken of any period during which the sitting may be suspended owing to a division being called in the House or a committee of the whole House.

20           (2) Any Member of the House may take part in a sitting in Westminster Hall.

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1. New text shown in italics.

(3) *On Tuesdays and Wednesdays*, the business taken at any sitting in Westminster Hall shall be such as the Chairman of Ways and Means shall appoint and may include oral answers to questions under arrangements to be made by him. 25

*(3A) Subject to paragraph (13), the business taken at any Thursday sitting in Westminster Hall shall be such as the Backbench Business Committee shall determine.*

(4) The Chairman of Ways and Means or a Deputy Chairman shall take the chair in Westminster Hall as Deputy Speaker; and the House may appoint not more than four other members of the Panel of Chairs to sit in Westminster Hall as Deputy Speaker. 30

(5) Any member of the Panel of Chairs may also take the chair at a sitting in Westminster Hall when so requested by the Chairman of Ways and Means, with the duties and powers conferred on additional Deputy Speakers; and Members so appointed shall be addressed by name. 35

(6) Any order made or resolution come to at a sitting in Westminster Hall (other than a resolution to adjourn) shall be reported to the House by the Deputy Speaker and shall be deemed to be an order or resolution of the House. 40

(7) If a motion be made by a Minister of the Crown that an order of the day be proceeded with at a sitting in Westminster Hall, the question thereon shall be put forthwith, but such motion may be made only with the leave of the House and may not be made on a Friday. 45

(8) The quorum at a sitting in Westminster Hall shall be three.

(9) If at a sitting in Westminster Hall the opinion of the Deputy Speaker as to the decision of a question (other than a question for adjournment) is challenged, that question shall not 50

be decided, and the Deputy Speaker shall report to the House accordingly; and any such question shall be put forthwith upon a motion being made in the House.

55 (10) If any business other than a motion for adjournment is under consideration at a sitting in Westminster Hall, and not fewer than six Members rise in their places and signify their objection to further proceedings, that business shall not be further proceeded with in Westminster Hall, and the Deputy  
60 Speaker shall report to the House accordingly, and any order under paragraph (7) above relating thereto shall be discharged.

(11) At the end of each sitting in Westminster Hall, unless a question for adjournment has previously been agreed to, the Deputy Speaker shall adjourn the sitting without putting any  
65 question; and proceedings on any business which has been entered upon but not disposed of shall lapse.

(12) The provisions of Standing Orders No. 29 (Powers of chair to propose question), No. 36 (Closure of debate), No. 37 (Majority for closure or for proposal of question), No. 38 (Procedure on divisions), No. 39 (Voting), No. 40 (Division unnecessarily claimed), No. 41 (Quorum), No. 43 (Disorderly conduct), No. 44 (Order in debate), No. 45 (Members suspended, &c., to withdraw from precincts), No. 45A (Suspension of salary of Members suspended) and No. 163  
70 (Motions to sit in private) shall not apply to sittings in Westminster Hall.  
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(13) In each Session, the Speaker shall appoint *twenty* Thursdays on which the business to be taken in Westminster Hall should be debates on select committee reports chosen by  
80 the Liaison Committee, *but the Speaker may appoint fewer than twenty days with the agreement of the Liaison Committee.*

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 14  
(Arrangement of public business) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

*Arrangement and Timing of Public and Private Business*

Arrangement of  
public business.

**14.**—(1) Save as provided in this order, government business shall have precedence at every sitting.

(2) Twenty days shall be allotted in each session for proceedings on opposition business, seventeen of which shall be at the disposal of the Leader of the Opposition and three of which shall be at the disposal of the leader of the second largest opposition party; and matters selected on those days shall have precedence over government business provided that—

(a) two Friday sittings shall be deemed equivalent to a single sitting on any other day;

(b) on any day other than a Friday, not more than two of the days at the disposal of the Leader of the Opposition may be taken in the form of four half days, and one of the days at the disposal of the leader of the second largest opposition party may be taken in the form of two half days; and

(c) on any such half day, proceedings under this paragraph shall either—

(i) lapse at seven o'clock on Monday or Tuesday, four o'clock on Wednesday or three o'clock on Thursday if not previously concluded, or

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1. New text shown in italics.

25 (ii) be set down for consideration at the hour specified in sub-paragraph (i) above and, except on days on which private business has been set down for consideration under the provisions of paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 20 (Time for taking private business), shall be entered upon at that time:

30 Provided that on days on which business stands over until seven o'clock, four o'clock or three o'clock under the provisions of Standing Order No. 24 (Emergency debates) proceedings under this sub-paragraph shall not be entered upon until such business has been disposed of, and may then be proceeded with for three hours, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order No. 9  
35 (Sittings of the House).

40 (3) For the purposes of this order 'the second largest opposition party' shall be that party, of those not represented in Her Majesty's Government, which has the second largest number of Members elected to the House as members of that party.

45 *(3A) Thirty-five days or its equivalent shall be allotted in each session for proceedings in the House and in Westminster Hall on backbench business of which at least twenty-seven shall be allotted for proceedings in the House; the business determined by the Backbench Business Committee shall have precedence over government business (other than any order of the day or notice of motion on which the question is to be put forthwith) on those days; and the provisions of paragraph (2)(c) of this Standing Order shall apply to any of those days*  
50 *taken in the House in the form of half-days.*

*(3B) For the purposes of paragraph (3A) above, a Thursday sitting in Westminster Hall at which the business is appointed by the Backbench Business Committee shall count as one half-day and a topical debate shall count as one quarter-day.*

- (3C) *Backbench business comprises all proceedings in the Chamber relating to any motion or order of the day except:* 55
- (a) *government business, that is proceedings relating to government bills, financial business, proceedings under any Act of Parliament, or relating to European Union Documents, or any other motion in the name of a Minister of the Crown;* 60
- (b) *opposition business under paragraph (2) above;*
- (c) *motions for the adjournment of the House under paragraph (7) of Standing Order No. 9 (Sittings of the House), private Members' motions for leave to bring in bills under Standing Order No. 23 (Motions for leave to bring in bills and nomination of select committees at commencement of public business) and private Members' bills under paragraphs (4) to (9) below;* 65
- (d) *proceedings relating to private business;* 70
- (e) *any motion to amend this order or Standing Order No. 152J (Backbench Business Committee);*
- (f) *business set down at the direction of, or given precedence by, the Speaker.*
- (3D) *The proceedings to be taken as backbench business shall be determined by the Backbench Business Committee, as set out in Standing Order No. 152J (Backbench Business Committee).'* 75
- (4) *Private Members' bills shall have precedence over government business on thirteen Fridays in each session to be appointed by the House.* 80



(5) On and after the eighth Friday on which private Members' bills have precedence, such bills shall be arranged on the order paper in the following order—

85            consideration of Lords amendments, third readings, consideration of reports not already entered upon, adjourned proceedings on consideration, bills in progress in committee, bills appointed for committee, and second readings.

90            (6) The ballot for private Members' bills shall be held on the second Thursday on which the House shall sit during the session under arrangements to be made by the Speaker, and each bill shall be presented by the Member who has given notice of presentation or by another Member named by him in writing to the Clerks at the Table, at the commencement of public business on the fifth Wednesday on which the House shall sit during the session.

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(7) Until after the fifth Wednesday on which the House shall sit during the session, no private Member shall—

100            (a) give notice of a motion for leave to bring in a bill under Standing Order No. 23 (Motions for leave to bring in bills and nomination of select committees at commencement of public business); or

105            (b) give notice for presenting a bill under Standing Order No. 57 (Presentation and first reading); or

(c) inform the Clerks at the Table of his intention to take charge of a bill which has been brought from the Lords.

110            (8) A private Member's bill to which the provisions of paragraphs (2) to (6) of Standing Order No. 97 (Scottish Grand Committee (bills in relation to their principle)) have applied, and which has been considered by a Scottish public bill

committee, shall not be set down for consideration on report so as to have precedence over any private Member's bill so set down which was read a second time on a day preceding that on which the bill was reported from the Scottish Grand Committee under paragraph (3) of that Standing Order. 115

(9) An order appointing a day for the second reading of a private Member's bill shall lapse at the rising of the House on the preceding sitting day if at that time the bill has not been printed and delivered to the Vote Office, and the House shall make no further order appointing a day for the second reading of the bill until it has been printed. 120

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 24A  
(Topical debates) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

*Topical debates*

Topical debates.

**24A.**—(1) *The Backbench Business Committee* may indicate that proceedings on a motion, That the House has considered a specified matter, being a matter of regional, national or international importance, are to be conducted as a topical debate. 5

(2) A topical debate shall last for not more than one and a half hours, at which time the motion, unless previously disposed of, shall lapse.

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1. New text shown in italics.

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 41A  
(Deferred divisions) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

*Deferred divisions*

5 **41A.**—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), Standing Order No. 38 (Procedure on divisions) shall not apply if, after the time for the interruption of business, the opinion of the Speaker as to the decision on a question is challenged in respect of any question. Deferred divisions.

(2) Standing Order No. 38 (Procedure on divisions) shall apply (and this order shall not apply) to questions—

10 (a) on motions or amendments in the course of proceedings on bills or allocating time to or programming such proceedings;

(b) on motions which may be made without notice;

(c) on motions to be disposed of immediately following the disposal of amendments proposed thereto, and on such amendments;

15 (d) on motions made under—

(i) paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 15 (Exempted business);

(ii) paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 51 (Ways and means motions);

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1. New text shown in italics.

- (iii) sub-paragraph (1)(a) of Standing Order No. 52 (Money resolutions and ways and means resolutions in connection with bills); 20
- (iv) paragraph (5) of Standing Order No. 54 (Consideration of estimates); and
- (v) paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 55 (Questions on voting of estimates, &c); and 25
- (e) on motions made under paragraph (3) below or to which an order made under that paragraph applies.
- (3) After the moment of interruption and the conclusion of proceedings under any other Standing Order which fall to be taken immediately after it, a Minister of the Crown may make a motion to the effect that this order shall not apply to questions on any specified motions; such motion may be proceeded with, though opposed, and the question thereon shall be put forthwith. 30
- (4) If the opinion of the Speaker is challenged under paragraph (1) of this order, he shall defer the division until *half-past eleven o'clock* on the next Wednesday on which the House shall sit. 35
- (5) On any Wednesday to which a division has been deferred under paragraph (4) above— 40
- (a) Members may record their votes on the question under arrangements made by the Speaker;
- (b) votes may be recorded for *two and a half hours after half-past eleven o'clock*, no account being taken of any period during which the House or committee proceeds to a division; and 45

50 (c) the Speaker, or the chair, shall announce the result of the deferred division as soon as may be after the expiry of the period mentioned in sub-paragraph (b) above.

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 47 (Time limits on speeches) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

*Time limits on speeches*

5 47.—(1) The Speaker may announce that he intends to call Members to speak in a debate, or at certain times during that debate, for no longer than any period he may specify, and he may at any time make subsequent announcements varying the terms of an announcement under this paragraph. Time limits on speeches.

10 (2) Whenever the Speaker has made an announcement under paragraph (1), he may, subject to paragraph (4), direct any Member (other than a Minister of the Crown, a Member speaking on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, or not more than one Member nominated by the leader of the second largest opposition party) who has spoken for that period to resume his seat forthwith.

15 (3) The Speaker may announce, at or before the commencement of any debate (other than a topical debate) in respect of which he has made or intends to make an announcement under paragraph (1) of this order, that speeches by a Minister of the Crown, Members speaking on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, and not more than one Member nominated by the leader of the second largest opposition party shall be limited to twenty minutes and he may direct any such

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1. New text shown in italics.

Member who has spoken for that period to resume his seat forthwith.

*(3A) The Speaker may announce, at or before the commencement of a topical debate in respect of which he has made or intends to make an announcement under paragraph (1) of this order, that speeches by a Minister of the Crown and any Member speaking on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition shall be limited to ten minutes and he may direct any such Member who has spoken for that period to resume his seat forthwith.*

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(4) In relation to any speech, the Speaker shall add to any period specified—

(a) under paragraph (1) of this order—

(i) one minute if one intervention is accepted, plus the time taken by that intervention;

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(ii) two minutes if two or more interventions are accepted, plus the time taken by the first two such interventions;

(b) under paragraph (3) or (3A) of this order, one minute for each intervention accepted up to a maximum of fifteen minutes.

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*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 122B  
(Election of select committee chairs) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

*Election of select committee chairs*

**122B.**—(1) The chairs of the following select committees shall be elected by the House in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (14) below: Election of select committee chairs.

5           (a) select committees appointed under Standing Order No. 152 (Select committees related to government departments);

          (aa) *the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee;*

          (b) the Environmental Audit Committee;

          (c) the Select Committee on Public Administration;

10          (d) the Committee of Public Accounts; and

          (e) the Select Committee on Procedure.

15          (2) The day following his election at the start of a new Parliament, the Speaker shall communicate to the leaders of each party represented in the House the proportion of chairs of select committees to be elected under this order falling to each such party which would reflect the composition of the House.

20          (3) If, within a week of the Queen's Speech, a motion in the name of the leaders of all the parties entitled to one or more chairs of select committees subject to election under this order specifying to which party each such chair is allocated is moved,

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1. New text shown in italics.

the questions necessary to dispose of proceedings on the motion shall be put not later than one hour after their commencement, proceedings on the motion shall be exempted business and Standing Order No. 41A (Deferred divisions) shall not apply. 25

(4) If a motion to which paragraph (3) above applies also makes changes to Standing Order No. 152 (Select committees related to government departments) which are consequential on changes to the machinery of government, then the questions necessary to dispose of proceedings on the motion shall be put not later than one and a half hours after their commencement; proceedings on the motion shall be exempted business; and Standing Order No. 41A (Deferred divisions) shall not apply. 30

(5) If, on the expiry of two weeks after the Queen's Speech, no motion in the name of the leaders of all the parties entitled to one or more chairs of select committees subject to election under this order specifying to which party each said chair is allocated has been tabled, on the following sitting day the Speaker shall give precedence to a motion tabled thereafter by any Member to allocate chairs under this order and the provisions of paragraphs (3) and (4) shall apply to proceedings on such a motion. 35 40

(6) If the House has agreed a motion allocating chairs to parties the election of the chairs shall take place in accordance with the remaining provisions of this order. 45

(7) The ballots shall take place fourteen days after the approval of the motion allocating chairs to parties.

(8) (a) Nominations of candidates shall be in writing and shall be received by the Clerk of the House by 5.00 pm on the day before the ballot. 50



55 (b) Each nomination shall consist of a signed statement made by the candidate declaring his willingness to stand for election, accompanied by the signatures of fifteen Members elected to the House as members of the same party as the candidate or ten per cent. of the Members elected to the House as members of that party, whichever is the lower.

60 (c) Statements may be accompanied by signatures of up to five Members elected to the House as members of any party other than that to which the candidate belongs, or members of no party.

(d) No Member may sign the statement of more than one candidate for chair of the same select committee.

65 (e) No Member may be a candidate for the chair of a select committee which has not been allocated to his party under paragraph (3) of this order or otherwise, or for which he is ineligible under Standing Order No. 122A (Term limits for chairs of select committees).

70 (f) No Member may be a candidate for the chair of the Committee of Public Accounts unless his party is that of the official Opposition.

(g) No Member may be a candidate for more than one chair elected under this order.

75 (h) As soon as practicable following the close of nominations, lists of the candidates and their accompanying signatories shall be published.

(9) Election of chairs of select committees under this order shall be by secret ballot.

- (10) Preparatory arrangements for the ballots shall be made under the supervision of the Clerk of the House. 80
- (11) (a) If there is only one candidate for the chair of a select committee, that candidate shall be declared elected without a ballot.
- (b) The ballot shall take place in a place appointed by the Speaker. 85
- (c) Each Member intending to vote shall be provided with a ballot paper for each select committee bearing the names of the candidates listed in alphabetical order.
- (d) Members will vote by ranking as many candidates as they wish in order of preference, marking 1 by the name of their first preference, 2 by the name of their second preference, and so on. Any candidate who receives more than half the first preferences shall be elected. If no candidate is so elected, the candidate or candidates with the lowest number of first preferences shall be eliminated and their votes distributed among the remaining candidates according to the preferences on them. If no candidate has more than half the votes, the process of elimination and distribution is repeated, until one candidate has more than half the votes. 90  
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- (e) The ballot shall be open between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm and counting shall take place under arrangements made by the Clerk of the House.
- (12) The Speaker shall have power to give directions on any matter of doubt arising from the conduct of a ballot or from an individual ballot paper and to vary the timings given in paragraphs (6) to (11) of this order. 105

(13) As soon as practicable after the closing of the ballot the results shall be published under the direction of the Speaker.

110 (14) A chair elected under this order is a member of the committee of which he is elected chair.

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 152 (Select committees related to government departments) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

*Select committees related to government departments*

**152.**—(1) Select committees shall be appointed to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the principal government departments as set out in paragraph (2) of this order and associated public bodies.

Select committees related to government departments.

5 (2) The committees appointed under paragraph (1) of this order, the principal departments of government with which they are concerned and the maximum numbers of each committee shall be as follows:

<i>Name of Committee</i>	<i>Principal government departments concerned</i>	<i>Maximum members</i>
1 Business, Innovation and Skills	Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	11
2 Communities and Local Government	Department for Communities and Local Government	11
3 Culture, Media and Sport	Department for Culture, Media and Sport	11

1. New text shown in italics.

<i>Name of Committee</i>	<i>Principal government departments concerned</i>	<i>Maximum members</i>
4 Defence	Ministry of Defence	11
5 Education	<i>Department for Education</i>	11
6 Energy and Climate Change	Department of Energy and Climate Change	11
7 Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	11
8 Foreign Affairs	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	11
9 Health	Department of Health	11
10 Home Affairs	Home Office	11
11 International Development	Department for International Development	11
12 Justice	Ministry of Justice (including the work of staff provided for the administrative work of courts and tribunals, but excluding consideration of individual cases and appointments, and excluding the work of the Scotland and Wales Offices and of the Advocate General for Scotland); and administration and expenditure of the Attorney General's Office, the Treasury Solicitor's Department, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Serious Fraud Office (but excluding individual cases and appointments and advice given within government by Law Officers)	11

<i>Name of Committee</i>	<i>Principal government departments concerned</i>	<i>Maximum members</i>
13 Northern Ireland Affairs	Northern Ireland Office; administration and expenditure of the Crown Solicitor's Office (but excluding individual cases and advice given by the Crown Solicitor); and other matters within the responsibilities of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (but excluding the expenditure, administration and policy of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Northern Ireland and the drafting of legislation by the Office of the Legislative Counsel)	13
14 Science and Technology	Government Office for Science	11
15 Scottish Affairs	Scotland Office (including (i) relations with the Scottish Parliament and (ii) administration and expenditure of the offices of the Advocate General for Scotland (but excluding individual cases and advice given within government by the Advocate General))	11
16 Transport	Department for Transport	11
17 Treasury	Treasury, HM Revenue & Customs	11
18 Welsh Affairs	Wales Office (including relations with the National Assembly for Wales)	11
19 Work and Pensions	Department for Work and Pensions	11

10 (3) Each select committee appointed under this order shall have the power to appoint a sub-committee.

(4) Select committees appointed under this order shall have power—

(a) to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to

adjourn from place to place, and to report from time to time; 15

(b) to appoint specialist advisers either to supply information which is not readily available or to elucidate matters of complexity within the committee’s order of reference; and 20

(c) to report from time to time the evidence taken before sub-committees, and the formal minutes of sub-committees;

and the sub-committees appointed under this order shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, to report from time to time their formal minutes, and shall have a quorum of three. 25

(5) Unless the House otherwise orders, all Members nominated to a committee appointed under this order shall continue to be members of that committee for the remainder of the Parliament. 30

*The text of the new Standing Order No. 122D (Election of Backbench Business Committee) is as follows:*

*Election of Backbench Business Committee*

Election of Backbench Business Committee.

**122D.**—(1) (a) The election of the chair of the Backbench Business Committee shall take place at the start of each session on a day to be determined by the Speaker.

(b) Nominations of candidates shall be in writing and shall be received by the Clerk of the House between 5

10 am and 5 pm on the day before the day appointed for election.

10 (c) Each nomination shall consist of a signed statement made by the candidate declaring their willingness to stand for election, accompanied by the signatures of not fewer than twenty nor more than twenty-five Members, of whom no fewer than ten shall be members of the candidate's party and no fewer than ten shall be members of any other party or no party.

15 (d) No Member may sign the statement of more than one candidate.

(e) As soon as practicable following the close of nominations, a list of the candidates and their accompanying signatories shall be published.

20 (f) Arrangements for the election shall follow those set out in paragraphs (9) to (14) of Standing Order No. 122B (Election of select committee chairs), save that in sub-paragraph (11)(e) the opening hours of the ballot shall be between 11 o'clock and one o'clock and in  
25 paragraph (12) reference to variation of timings shall be read as applying also to the timings in sub-paragraph (b) and (f) of this paragraph.

(2) (a) The election of members of the Backbench Business Committee shall take place on a day to be determined by the Speaker as soon as practicable after the election of the chair.  
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(b) Nominations of candidates shall be in writing and shall be received by the Clerk of the House between 10 am and 5 pm on the day before the day appointed for election.  
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- (c) Each nomination shall consist of a signed statement made by the candidate declaring their willingness to stand for election, accompanied by the signatures of not fewer than twelve nor more than fifteen Members.
- (d) As soon as practicable following the close of nominations, a list of the candidates and their accompanying signatories shall be published. 40
- (e) The provisions set out in paragraph (5)(a) to (d) and (f) of Standing Order No. 2A (Election of the Deputy Speakers) shall apply to the election of members of the committee. 45
- (f) The ballot shall be counted under the Single Transferable Vote system, with constraints that of those elected:
- (i) such a number of candidates shall come from each party represented in the House or those of no party as shall be determined and announced in advance by the Speaker, in such a way as to ensure that the committee including the Chair reflects as closely as possible the composition of the House, and 50
- (ii) at least two women and two men shall be elected. 55
- (3) (a) Standing Order No. 122C (Resignation or removal of chairs of select committees) shall apply to the chair of the Backbench Business Committee, save for paragraph (2) of that Order; and any election following a vacancy in the chair shall be held under the provisions of paragraph (1)(b) to (f) above. 60
- (b) Where a member of the committee has ceased to be a Member of this House or has given written notice to the 65



70 Speaker of a wish to resign from the committee, the Speaker shall make arrangements for the election by the House of a replacement using the Alternative Vote System as set out in paragraph (11) of Standing Order No. 122B (Election of select committee chairs), and may give such directions on the party affiliation required for a valid candidature as are necessary to preserve the balance of parties on the committee as referred to in paragraph (2)(f)(i) above.

*The text of the new Standing Order 152J (Backbench Business Committee) is as follows:*

*Backbench Business Committee*

**152J.**—(1) There shall be a select committee, called the Backbench Business Committee, to determine the backbench business to be taken in the House and in Westminster Hall on days, or parts of days, allotted for backbench business. Backbench  
Business  
Committee.

5 (2) The committee shall consist of a chair and seven other Members, of whom four shall be a quorum.

10 (3) The chair and other members of the committee shall continue as members of the committee for the remainder of the Session in which they are elected unless replaced under the provisions of Standing Order No. 122D (Election of Backbench Business Committee).

(4) The chair and members of the committee shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 122D (Election of Backbench Business Committee).

(5) No Member who is a Minister of the Crown or parliamentary private secretary or a principal opposition front-bench spokesperson shall be eligible to be the chair or a member of the committee: the Speaker's decision shall be final on such matters. 15

(6) The committee shall have power to invite Government officials to attend all or part of any of its meetings. 20

(7) The committee shall determine the backbench business to be taken—

(a) in the House on any day, or any part of any day, allotted under paragraph (3A) of Standing Order No. 14, and 25

(b) in Westminster Hall, in accordance with paragraph (3A) of Standing Order No. 10,

and shall report its determinations to the House.

### *Temporary Standing Orders*

*The text of the Temporary Standing Order (Political and Constitutional Reform Committee) is as follows.*

#### *Political and Constitutional Reform Committee*

(1) There shall be a select committee, called the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee, to consider political and constitutional reform.

(2) The committee shall consist of 11 members.

5 (3) The committee shall have power—

(a) to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, and to report from time to time; and

10 (b) to appoint specialist advisers to supply information which is not readily available or to elucidate matters of complexity within the committee's order of reference.

(4) Unless the House otherwise orders, each Member nominated to the committee shall continue to be a member of  
15 it for the remainder of the Parliament.

(5) The committee shall have power to appoint a sub-committee, which shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, and to report to the  
20 committee from time to time.

(6) The committee shall have power to report from time to time the evidence taken before the sub-committee.

